

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-33 are pending. The limitation of new claims 32-33 is supported by page 18, lines 26-28, of the specification.

Claims 1-31 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-22 of copending Application No. 09/735,914 (the '914 application). Applicants traverse because the '914 application was abandoned on April 26, 2004.

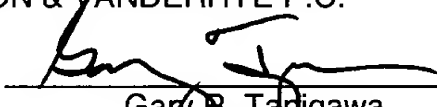
Withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is requested.

Having fully responded to all of the pending objections and rejections contained in the Office Action (Paper No. 13), Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit an early Notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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